



Maine Department of Health and Human Services

MECMS Update 44

January 3, 2006

Billing News & Tips

Please review the revised payment schedule for the New Year's holiday

For the New Year's holiday, the Department of Health and Human Services will change our schedule for issuing payments to providers. Here is what would be the normal schedule and how it will be adjusted:

Normally, the claims cycle payment EFTs would be released on Friday, December 30, for receipt that night or until the following Tuesday, January 3, depending on the EFT vendor.

Adjusted schedule: The claims cycle payment EFTs were scheduled to be released on Friday, December 30, for receipt that night or until the following Wednesday, January 4, depending on the EFT vendor.

Normally, the claims cycle payment checks and corresponding RAs would be released on Monday, January 2, for receipt by the following Friday, January 6, depending on the mail.

Adjusted schedule: The claims cycle payment checks and RAs will be released on Tuesday, January 3, for receipt by the following Saturday, January 7, depending on the mail.

Normally, the interim payment cycle EFTs would occur on Wednesday, January 4, for receipt that night or until the following Monday, January 9, depending on the EFT vendor.

Adjusted schedule: The interim payment cycle EFTs will occur on Thursday, January 5, for receipt that night or until the following Tuesday, January 10, depending on the EFT vendor.

Normally, the interim cycle payment checks that have no corresponding RAs would be released Thursday, January 5, for receipt by the following Tuesday, January 10, depending on the mail.

Adjusted schedule: The interim payment checks that have no corresponding RAs will be released on Friday, January 6, for receipt by the following Wednesday, January 11, depending on the mail.

Next week, beginning January 9, the payment cycles will return to their normal dates.

Some members have limited benefits, so checking eligibility is important

Some MaineCare members are only eligible to receive limited benefits. Recently, many claims were denied because providers billed for services/procedures that are not valid for members who have limited benefits.

You should always verify a member's eligibility prior to providing services. If the member has a limited benefit, please contact the Office of MaineCare Services at 1-800-321-5557, Option 9, to verify that the service to be provided is a covered service for that member.

Temporary portal gives you online access to claim status information

The Office of MaineCare Services is pleased to announce the availability of a temporary provider portal where you can check claim status within MECMS. The portal enables you to check the status of all claims, at the header level, for all business statuses, including claims that are suspended.

This is not intended to be the long-term solution for provider access to MECMS. The portal will be in place until we can provide more extensive online access and we make the full HIPAA transaction exchanges operational.

This temporary solution does not provide line-level detail or explain why a claim is suspended. If you request additional information for individual billing numbers, for any specified dates of services and for any business status, we will put that information in a results file in a secure online location for you to pick up.

To use the portal, you need to obtain a user ID and a password. Please call the number included in the instruction manual available at http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms/innerthird/temp_prov_portal.htm. The URL for the portal is also included in the instructions.

Please follow these steps if you want to repay interim payments

DHHS has recently received a number of requests from providers asking whether they may repay interim payments. Should you wish to repay interim payments, we will supply you with your interim payment history. This will enable you to see your current interim payment balance prior to submitting a repayment check.

If you request your interim payment history, you can expect an e-mail containing that information within a week.

In an effort to simplify and expedite this process, please send your repayment request to this e-mail address: IPRT@maine.gov

Please include the following information for all provider ID numbers that you intend to settle:

1. All MECMS provider ID numbers for which you need settlement information.
2. A return e-mail address that may be used to respond to the request.
3. The contact name and telephone number.

Important note: Should you receive any additional unsolicited interim payments, please return each check to this address:

Attn: Colin Lindley
Office of Management and Budget
11 State House Station
221 State St.
Augusta, ME 04333-0011 ■

Contact Us

E-mail us at: BMS.inquiry@maine.gov

Call us at: 1-800-321-5557
TTY: 1-800-423-4331
Augusta area: 207-624-7539

On the web at: www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms

Write us at: Inquiry Unit
Office of MaineCare Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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